Mr. E. G. Salter: All the drivers who operate the buses are not qualified mechanics and as such if they are given the mechanical apparatus to repair disorders they are likely to cause damage to the buses.

Game fees collected from the students of the English School.

85 ***Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any circular that game fees should be collected from the students of the English School along with the first instalment of fees;

(*b*) whether the time for payment of first instalment is the time when the guardians have to incur expenses for the purchase of books etc.; and

(*c*) whether they have any objection to allow the game fees to be paid along with any subsequent instalment?

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) There is no objection.

Cost incurred by the Government for lighting purposes in Government Offices at Trivandrum.

86. ***Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar**: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the recurring cost incurred by the Government for lighting purposes in Government Offices at Trivandrum during the six years previous to the introduction of electric lights and the corresponding cost during the years after the introduction of electric lights?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): It is not now possible to furnish the figures for the expenditure for the six years previous to the installation of electricity, as the records have been destroyed as per Article 222 of the Financial and Account Code. The corresponding figures for lighting after the introduction of electric lights could not also be furnished, as metering is done for the combined installation of lights and fans.

State Manual.

87. ***Mr. James Fletcher** (*Kalkulam and Vilavancode* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the new State Manual has been printed and published;

(*b*) the cost incurred for the production of the Manual;

(*c*) the cost incurred for the printing and publishing; and

(*d*) whether the books are available for the members of the Houses of the Legislature?

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Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: (*a*) Volumes I, III and IV of the State Manual have been published. Volume II is under scrutiny.

(*b*) Rs. 24,858.

(*c*) Rs. 4,239.

(*d*) Yes.

Price of Rice.

88. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan:** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the price of rice in the State is rising gradually ; and

(*b*) if so, what measures have the Government adopted to control it ?

Mr. S. Ramakrishna Aiyar: (*a*) Some increase in the price of rice is noticed from February onwards in the markets of the State. This is only in keeping with the higher rates in outside markets from where rice is largely imported.

(*b*) (i) With the aid of reports and weekly reviews of the prices prevailing in different centres of the State, Government have been periodically fixing the maximum prices for different varieties of imported rice based on the ruling market-price at Cochin ;

(ii) Complaints of profiteering on the part of merchants having come to the notice of Government, Press Notes were issued from time to time warning the public against alarming reports, and at the same time reminding the merchants that in cases of profiteering Government will be forced to take steps under the Defence of Travancore Rules. Necessary instructions have been issued to the police officers and the situation is being closely watched;

(iii) Instances of speculative capitalists making large purchases of paddy and rice from Travancore with a view to profiteering having come to the notice of Government, export of paddy and rice from the State on a commercial basis has been restricted to prevent abnormal rise in prices ;

(iv) Government have stocked some rice, both from Burma and South Indian Districts, as a measure of control of prices, and these are available for sale to the public at reasonable rates ; and

(v) Government are keeping a careful watch over the situation which is well under control.

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